

The surveys evaluated current policies and regulations. Among Delaware Bay property owners 42 percent believed stronger enforcement of present laws and regulations was needed. About one quarter thought more public education and involvement were needed and another quarter indicated more stringent environmental laws or regulations were required. Less than three percent felt nothing should be done. Washingtonians want to see stricter enforcement of current pollution laws, rather than new laws. Most believed laws and enforcement should be applied to both industry and individuals. In the San Francisco Bay Area, respondents were evenly divided as to whether current regulations were sufficient or not to prevent adverse environmental impacts. Many individuals felt current regulations should be updated to eliminate loopholes and ambiguities, recognize priorities such as agriculture, and create positive economic incentives for pollution control. Twenty percent felt current enforcement measures were adequate while almost two-thirds believed they were insufficient. Most Rhode Islanders felt current state policies were inadequate to resolve conflict over Bay use. Further, most deemed enforcement of regulations as inadequate. Many blamed decreases in federal and state funding for regulatory agencies for causing or aggravating this problem.

These studies assessed public perception of which level of government should be responsible for environmental policy. Over half of Delaware Bay property owners thought state agencies should be responsible, while fewer believed federal and local agencies should be responsible. Half of Washington respondents believed state government should be responsible for water-pollution control and cleanup, while smaller proportions believed it is the responsibility of federal and local governments. Most Rhode Island respondents thought the state should establish a comprehensive policy governing the use of the bay to protect public resources from infringement by private interest.

Public preferences toward policy orientations were also analyzed. A majority of Delaware Bay property owners believed water, recreational, and living quality had declined during the past five years. Almost three quarters favored increased growth management by state, county, and local governments. In Washington, support for pollution education had increased above its previously strong levels. Almost all state residents wanted to see more education. Most residents also believed increased funding for water pollution control and clean-up should come from heavier fines on all polluters, including individuals.

San Francisco Bay respondents identified the two major problem areas hindering management efforts as the influence of politics on management decisions, and the lack of consensus on problems. Most thought more emphasis should be placed on research to provide current data for sound resource management decisions. In Rhode Island there was a clear expression of need for a process through which both organized and unorganized users could have a greater voice in policy formation. Many perceived the Coastal Resource Management Council as too political and as